

REMARKS

The specification and Figures 14-17 have been amended to point to said housing of the flame circuit, and claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to specify generally that a "transistor" (rather than an FET) provides automatic gain control. It is therefore believed that all the Examiner's objections to the drawings have been overcome.

The allowance of claim 21* and the conditional allowance of claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 14 and 16-18 is noted with thanks.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19 and 20 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Snider et al. (U.S. Patent 6,013,919), the Examiner's rejection is in error. Nowhere does Snider et al. teach or suggest a transistor that provides automated gain control to an amplifier UA1, but instead teaches resistors R3, R4 and R9 performing gain control. Thus, Snider et al. cannot anticipated or render obvious this aspect of claim 1. Furthermore, nowhere does Snider et al. teach or suggest at least one capacitor providing stability to an output signal of amplifier UA1. Thus, Snider et al. cannot achieve or render obvious claim 1, 11 nor any claims dependent therefrom.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

* Claim 21 has been amended to refer to the FET generally, i.e., as a "transistor". It is submitted the amendment of claim 21 does not affect the allowability of that claim, particularly in light of the Examiner's reasons for allowance as noted on page 6 of the Action.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include amendments to FIGs. 14-17. These sheets, which include FIGs. 14-17, replace the original sheets including FIGs. 14-17. Marked copies of amended FIGs. 14-17 are also enclosed.

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In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 28, 2005, at Tucson, Arizona.

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Annotated Marked Drawings

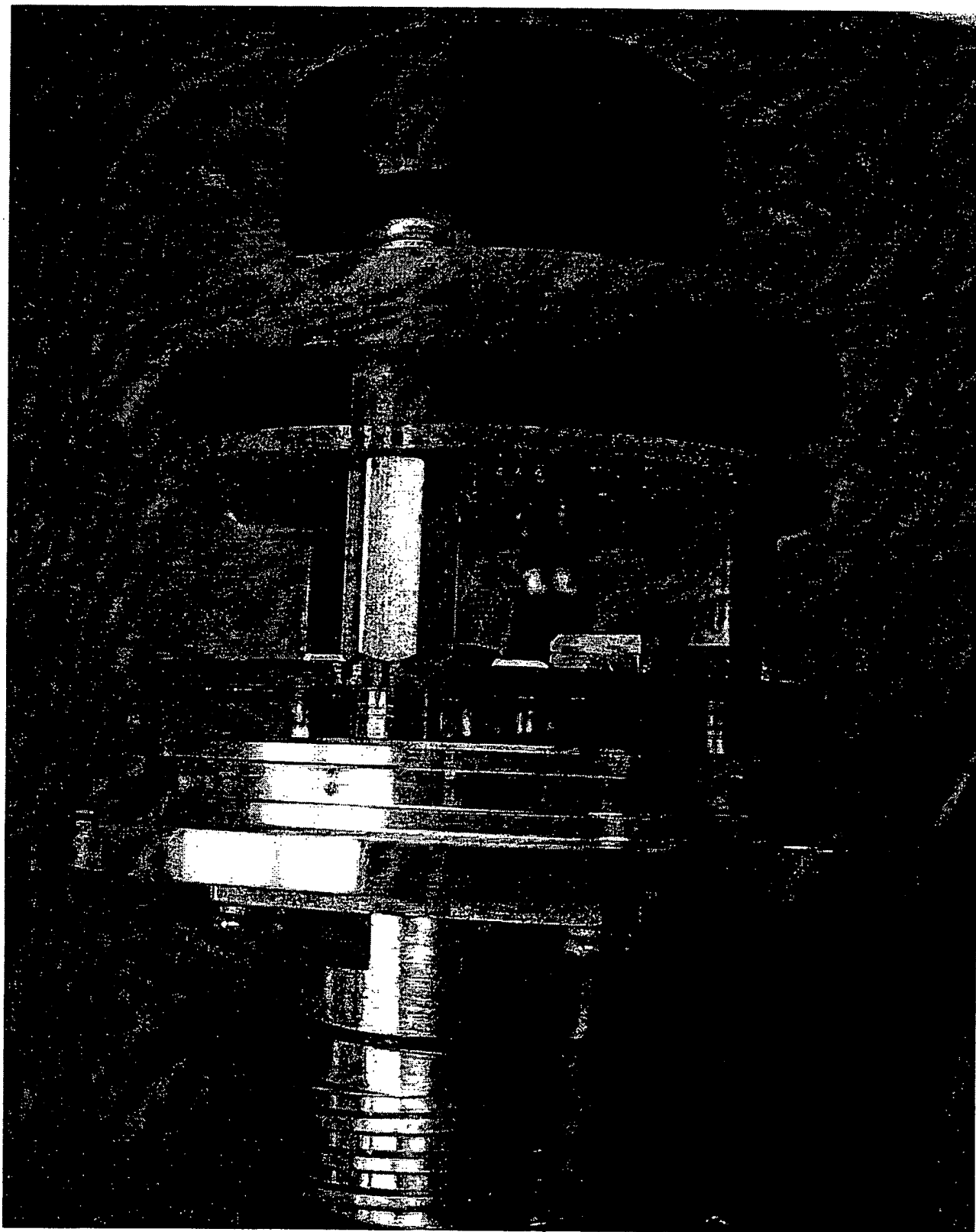


FIG. 14

100

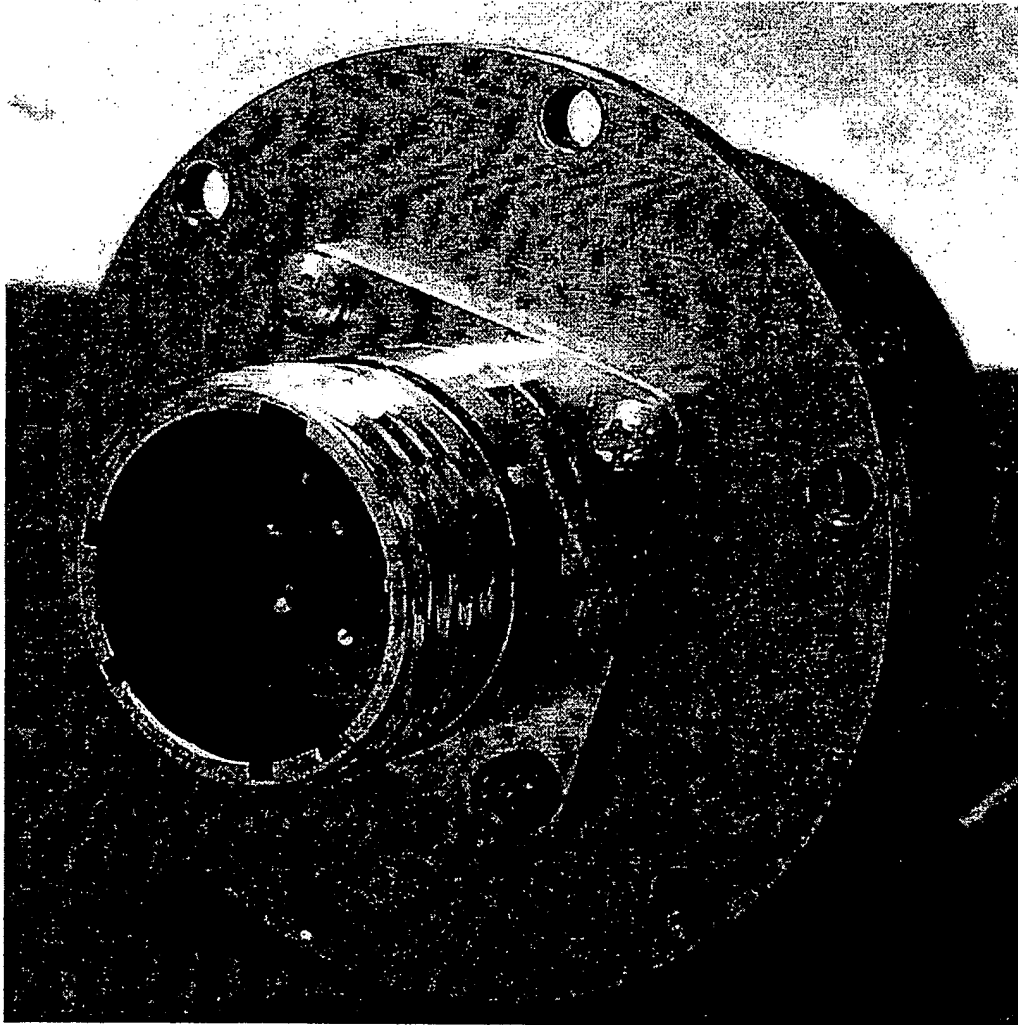


FIG. 15

100

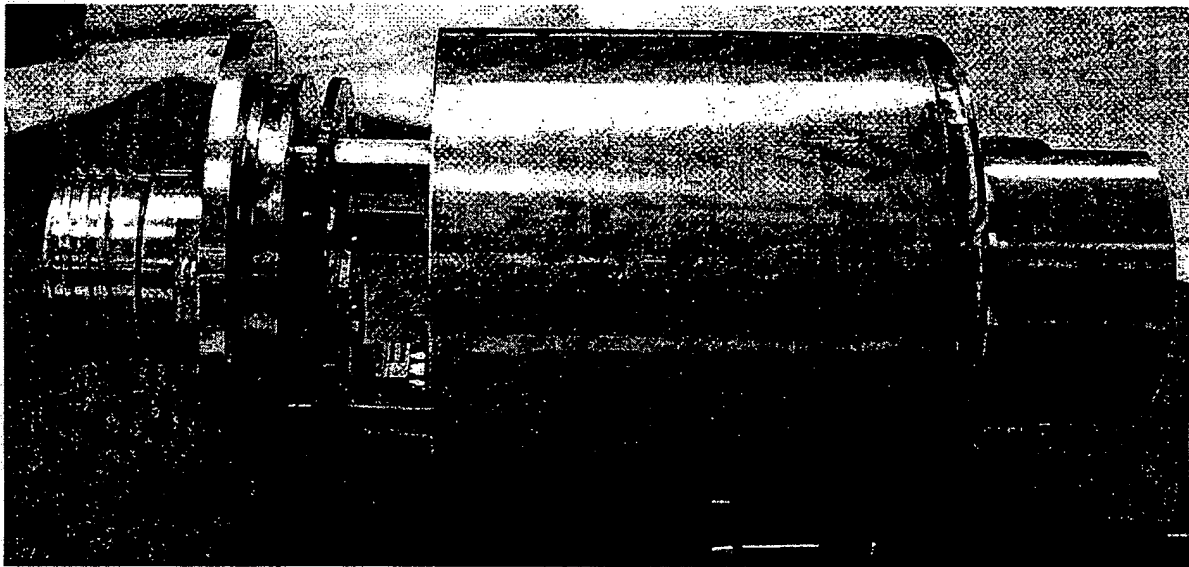


FIG. 16

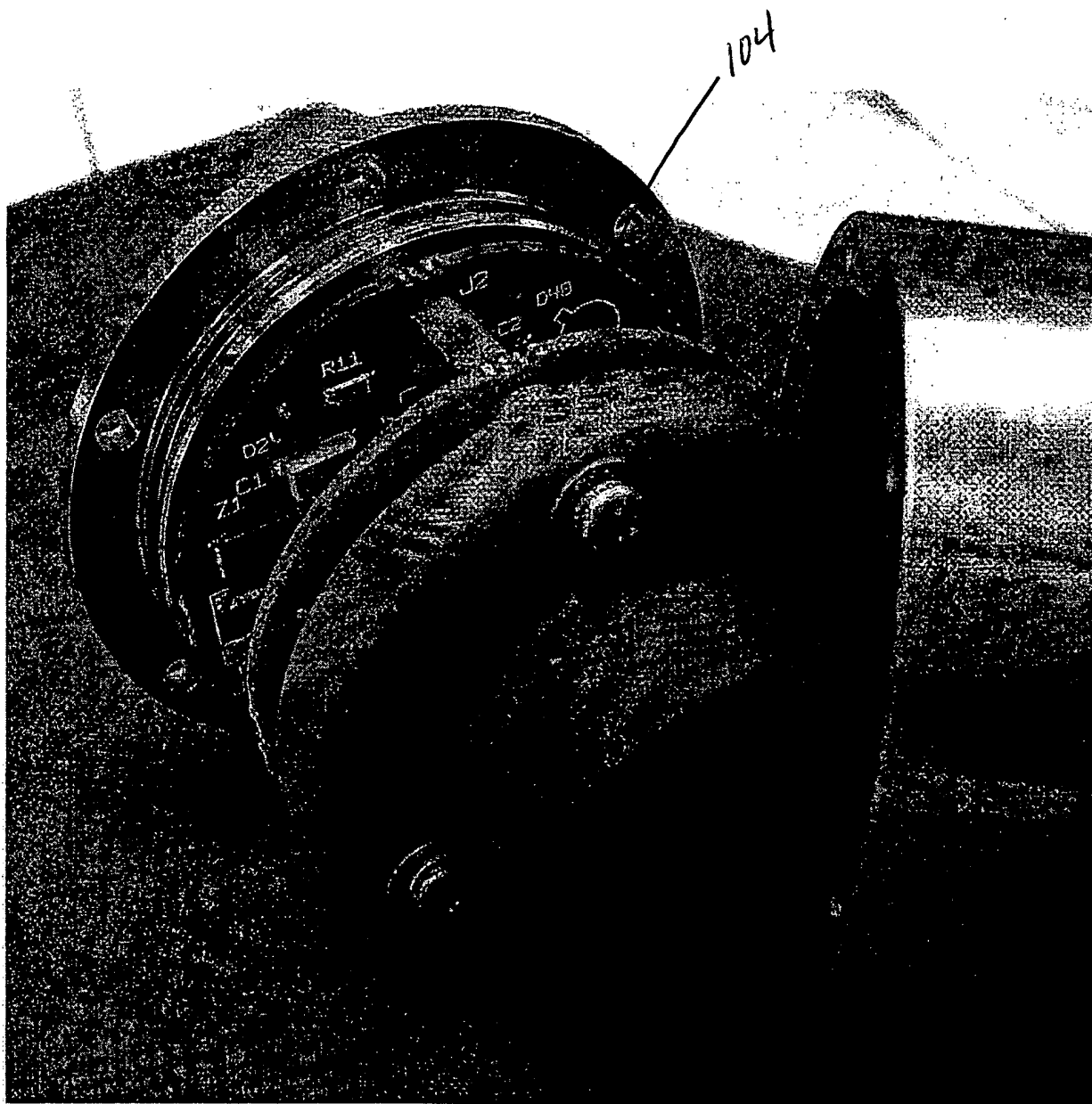


FIG. 17